

# Who We Are and Why We Do It This Way

**Who is the Dormont-Mt. Lebanon Sportsmen's Club** – the following is excerpted from the DMSCI By-Laws, this is our name and our organization's purpose. Section 1.1. Name. The name of the Corporation is Dormont-Mt. Lebanon Sportsmen's Club, Inc. (hereinafter referred to as the "Club"), incorporated under the Pennsylvania Nonprofit Club Act of 1933 on April 11, 1938.

In mid-2017 the club was forced to change its status from a non-profit to a for-profit organization due to revenues we were receiving from shale gas development.

Section 1.2. Purpose. The purposes of the Club shall be: (a) to promote public awareness of the need for the conservation of our natural resources of game, aquatic life, forests and streams, (b) to encourage public spirited citizens to join in membership for education in the safe sporting use of firearms and archery, to foster firearm safety and competitive marksmanship, (c) to provide and maintain target ranges and other recreational facilities commensurate with the needs of the members, and (d) to promote good fellowship and a high standard of ethics among sportsmen.

**What we are-** we are a sportsman's and women's club made up of like-minded individuals that is a structured organization that has many organized shooting activities taking place during the year both indoors and outdoors. We are mainly a pistol and rifle shooting club with additional shotgun, archery, and air programs. We are an organization that considers the safety of our members and the community a priority, that is why we have such a structured range safety program. We are also an organization that puts a great deal of effort into keeping the club's facilities maintained at a high level. We are proud of our club and its members.

**Why do we bring members in this way?** - Because we want to develop individuals that will become the best possible responsible members of this club and possibly stewards of the club. We want individuals who want to become a member of this club and not just simply join.

**How do we do this?** –We do this through a [Five Step Process](#), a written description of this Five Step Process is included in the information packet given to applicants. What this Five Step Process does is it allows us to get to know you and you to get to know us. It also lets you, the applicant, get to know something about the club and what the club is about and our purpose. It also allows us to demonstrate our commitment to the safety of our members and the community. Hopefully, it allows the applicant to see the DMSC for what it is, which is the sum of our membership and the efforts of our members.

It is up to the individual applicant(s) to put forth the effort to complete this 5 Step Process we are not going to coax you or pull you through this process. Again, it is up to the individual applicant(s) to complete this program. You are required to complete this membership process on your own no later than the third quarter of the calendar year in which you apply. If you make the decision that [you do not like](#) what you hear or see here at the DMSC you are [not required](#) to [complete](#) this application process. If you decide at any time that this club is not an organization that you want to belong to you do not have to join and we thank you for your interest just the same.

**The Membership Application Event - Interview/Orientation session** - [this is the first step](#) in your application for membership process. We ask you to sit with an interview team made up of existing club members and engage in an open dialog. This is one of the ways we start to get to know you and you

start to get to know the club. We will ask you some basic questions and you are encouraged to ask anything that you may have on your mind about the club and the 5 Step Process. The Interview Team will fill out a report and give their opinion on whether you should be accepted into the 5 Step Application Process or not. The application will be submitted to one of the Induction Committee Chairpersons for review and you will be contacted usually by email and informed about your acceptance or rejection. Don't worry about the outcome of this session, there are no trick questions, there are [no special "right answers."](#) In the past the only individuals who had their applications rejected were those individuals that were found to be [less than honest](#) with their information submitted at this session.

**The BLUE CARD** - This card is very important because it travels with you through your application process and proves that you have completed all the requirements as prescribed to become a member of the DMSC. If you happen to lose your BLUE CARD, how do you or would you prove that you have completed any of the requirements? If your Blue Card is defaced or illegible, again, how do you prove you completed anything? We do not normally issue a second or replacement BLUE CARD so please take care of the card you were issued.

You can complete most of the activities on your BLUE CARD and get them signed off out of sequence EXCEPT for Item # 8. All items #1 through #7(only if #7 is a requirement for the individual) must be completed and signed off before you are permitted to attend #8 The Range Safety Orientation. It is up to the individual to put forth the effort to complete this 5 Step Process. We are not going to coax you or pull you through this process. You are required to complete this on your own. [It is all up to you.](#)

**Why are you as an applicant required** to complete the activities listed on the "BLUE CARD"?-

During the application process to become a member of the DMSC we want you to meet as many of our members as possible and hopefully start to form relationship(s) with other members here at the club. We want you to dedicate a certain amount of time to the club and invest some "sweat equity" here in the DMSC. We want you to see that this club only exists because of the hard work put forth by its members. We want you to be directly involved and participate in the activities here at the DMSC. We want you to see the emphasis on safety and the formal safety procedures at work during organized shooting events. Hopefully you will [become involved](#) in some way [here at the club.](#)

**Attending Required Events-** When the applicant comes to attend or participate in a required event, they should plan on coming early and leaving late. You should let the program manager or Match Director know that you are there to watch or to participate. Don't be afraid to ask questions but be considerate to the individuals participating in the event and be mindful of event protocols and match courtesies. If someone intends to breeze in late, get a signature and slide out early, sorry you will not get credit for attending that event. Program managers are briefed on this and are instructed not to sign off on your Blue Card. This is the same for shooting events/matches as it is for attending membership meetings and as it is for participating in work parties as it is for the Range Safety Orientation Meeting. You are required to attend these various activities at least once, but you are invited to attend them as many times as you would like. We look forward to seeing you at these various events on a regular basis. Please don't join and never come around again.

**The Mentoring Program-** the Mentoring program option is for those individuals who may have [little or no shooting/firearms handling experience.](#) Such as the first-time firearms owner or the individual that has owned a firearm but has very little experience or training in the proper use and handling of firearms. This teaches the uninitiated individual the basics of the proper and safe methods of how to handle and use a firearm. [It is not for those who want to become better shooters with a particular type of firearm.](#) If you

want to become a better shooter or improve your skills at a particular type of shooting please contact a Program Manager in your area of your interest, their contact information is listed in the **Shooting Programs** on the Club's Website.

**Sponsors** – the requirement for sponsors to vouch for you has been a long-standing requirement in many organizations including this one. If you don't know anyone to sign and act as your sponsor(s) when you first apply you will find that sometime during the completing of the requirements as listed on your Blue Card, you will get to know existing members here at the club who if asked will more than likely be willing to sign as a sponsor. Getting to know other members was one of the concepts designed into the 5 Step application Process. Simply ask someone that you get to know.

**The Facilities Orientation and Safety Briefing Session-** This is the next to last step in the 5 Step Application Process to become a member of the club. You are **required** to participate in this last session to show you the facilities and to emphasize the range safety rules in effect here at the club. You walk through all the ranges and have the safety requirements for each range explained to you. This is an interactive session so if you develop questions during this session, you can ask them and have those questions answered. [At the end of the session, you will pay your initiation fee and dues](#), you will also be **CONDITIONALLY** given your gate keycard. Your application will then be given to the Board of Directors to vote on.

**The Board of Directors vote of approval-** This is [the final step](#), after you have completed the Facilities Orientation and Safety Training Session and paid the required fees/dues and was **CONDITIONALLY** issued a gate key card. The issuing of the card was **conditional** because your application is **required to be voted** on by the Board of Directors. Your application will be voted on by the BOD at the **next regularly scheduled** monthly BOD meeting. Between the time you paid your fees/dues and were **conditionally** issued a gate key card and the BOD's vote you will have a **background check** conducted. Then the BOD will take a vote accepting or rejecting you as a member. The average person has no need to worry about this vote, typically unless you have given false information or have had a serious legal issue, and the overwhelming majority of individuals receive a confirming vote, but we make no guarantees.

**"We will work with you"**- this is a definition of what that does and does not mean. It means that assistance **MAY** be rendered to those applicants who have **genuine** and **legitimate** work/school and or family/personal conflicts that interfere with completing the various activities on the Blue Card and becoming a member. What it is **NOT** is an avenue or tool of **convenience** for other applicants that feel that only their personal time is of value and do not mind wasting a volunteer's time and efforts. The individual committee volunteer's time is just as valuable as any applicant's and the volunteers make the commitment to help the applicant become a member of this club. So please don't take advantage of their generosity and good nature. If an applicant [is not sincere](#) in their effort to make regularly scheduled events why should program volunteers dedicate inordinate amounts of their free time to make it happen for the applicant? If the applicant's schedule is too busy maybe it is not that applicant's year to join the club? If the [applicant is that busy](#), when will they find time to visit the club after becoming a member? [We who are the committee volunteers will be the ones to make the determination as to what a legitimate reason is and when we will,"](#) Work with you".

**What this club is not-** we are not a strip-mine or a dump, we don't shoot up car doors or appliances or bowling balls. We don't play western quick draw, SWAT or SPECOPS games. We don't use ammunition as a defoliant. We have never had problems with zombies or space aliens or any other invading horde. **We are not** your parents, so **we do not** clean up after you. **We are not** a baby-sitting service, so you must watch your own children. **We are not** a valet or concierge service that is here to be at an individual's beck

and call. **We are not** a place without rules where you can come and do as you, please whenever you please.

**What this club is** – we are sportsmen/women who come together because of our common interests. Who have a respect for the shooting sports, for this organization, the facility and each other. And we welcome like-minded individuals.

## Frequently asked questions:

- “I don’t know anybody here, how will I get sponsors?” One of the things that happens during this Five Step Process is that you get to meet people who will be willing to act as your sponsors.
- “My work schedule won’t let me attend certain activities” If you contact us in **advance** and let us know what your legitimate conflicts or issues are we are willing to work with you to overcome these scheduling issues.
- “We are going on a vacation when that is taking place” If you have a family vacation, wedding or other formal function planned, again, let us know in advance what your conflicts or issues are we are willing to work with you to overcome these scheduling issues.
- “There is/was a family hardship” If such a circumstance takes place, as mentioned elsewhere, let us know as soon as you can what your conflicts or issues are, and we are willing to work with you to overcome these scheduling issues.
- “Little Johnny or Suzy plays soccer or baseball every weekend in the spring, and I can’t make a particular event(s)” Normally applicants have several months to complete the required activities and if an applicant can’t find the spare time in several months to complete the activities maybe it is not your year to join the DMSC.
- “I can’t make that event because it is the opening day of Trout Season” or “the Stanley Cup Playoffs are that night” Normally applicants have several months to complete the required activities and if an applicant can’t find the spare time in several months to complete the activities maybe it is not your year to join the DMSC.
- “What time do the work parties start” see the information listed about work parties. It will also tell you when they are over and what to wear, etc.
- “I don’t know what shooting event to attend?” See the information listed about the shooting events that applicants are permitted to attend. “**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC EVENTS**” are just that and applicants are **encouraged to attend** or participate in these types of events. Applicants **should not attend “open shoot events”** because of safety related issues. So please don’t confuse “**OPEN SHOOT** events” with “**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**” events.
- “When are the dates and times of various events” Check the calendars that are posted on the DMSC website and in your packet.

- “I am confused or have a question and don’t know who to contact” See the contact information and instructions included in this packet.
- “Will the gate be open?” The gate should be **locked open** for events that are “OPEN TO THE PUBLIC events” but probably will **not be open** for the “OPEN SHOOT events”.

**If you come-up with a question** during this 5 Step Application Process, please try the following steps. Review the [information packet given to you at the Membership Application Day Session](#). Take the time to go to the [DMSC website](#) and explore the information contained on that website. Finally, if you can’t find the information yourself send your inquiry to the [primary contact as listed on the contact information page](#).

